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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 25, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1893. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

SEE NO CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it has been my privilege to work on issues of reduction of greenhouse gases for over 25 years. I was Portland's commissioner of public works when we became the first American city with a comprehensive approach to deal with greenhouse gases. For 4 years I was pleased to serve on Speaker PELOSI's Select Committee on Global Warming and Energy Independence, where we had an opportunity to work with people around the world looking at climate impacts, dealing with dozens of hearings, hundreds of experts concerned with the challenge, the even greater problems that we are facing in the future.

Yet, I would say that in the years that I have been working on this issue, I have never seen a better, more effective statement than what appeared in yesterday's Washington Post, an essay by Bill McKibben entitled "See no climate change." He said, you should not wonder, is this somehow related to the tornado outbreak 3 weeks ago in Tuscaloosa, or the enormous outbreak a couple weeks before with the most active tornado season in America's history. You should not connect in your mind the fires burning across Texas, fires that have burned more of America at this point this year than any wildfires in previous years. Or that the adjoining parts of Oklahoma and New Mexico are drier now than they have ever been, much worse than during the Dust Bowl. You should not wonder whether this year's record snowfalls and rainfalls across the Midwest, resulting in record flooding along the Mississippi, could somehow be related.

There have been tornadoes before. There will be tornadoes again. That's the important thing. Be careful to make sure you don't let yourself wonder while all these record-breaking events are happening in such prox-

imity. Wondering why there have been unprecedented megafloods in Australia, New Zealand, and Pakistan in the last year. Why it's just now that the Arctic has melted for the first time in thousands of years.

He goes on, because if you ask yourself what it meant that the Amazon has just gone through its second hundred-year flood in 5 years, or that the pine forests across the West of this continent have been obliterated by bark beetles, you might have to ask other questions. It's better to join with the U.S. House of Representatives, who voted 240-184 this spring to defeat a resolution saying simply that climate change is occurring, caused largely by human activities, and poses significant risks for human welfare.

Propose your own physics. Ignore physics altogether. Just don't start asking yourself whether there might be some relationship among last year's failed grain harvest in the Russian heat wave and Queensland's failed grain harvest from its second flood, and Germany and France's current drought-related crop failures. It's important, Bill says, to remain calm. If the worst ever did come to worst, it's reassuring to remember that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce told the Environmental Protection Agency in recent filings that there's no need to worry because populations can acclimate to warmer climates via a range of behavioral, physiological, and technological adaptations. Bill says, I'm sure that's what the residents in Joplin, Missouri, are telling themselves today.

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more. It is important for Americans to think about how these pieces fit together. And Members of Congress should ask themselves two questions. First, even if you don't believe the experts on the danger of climate change, shouldn't we be taking extraordinary steps to stop wasting more energy than anybody in the world and exporting billions of dollars overseas to other countries for our

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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